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PLAINS FORESTER

U.S. FOREST SERVICE



LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Handwritten notes on the right margin: "Red", "L.H.", "J.H.", "B.H.", "G.M.D."

Vol. 4, No. 1

February - 1939

MISTER, MAY I PLANT A TREE?

Approximately six weeks (at the time this was written) have gone by since my arrival on the job. During this time I have tried to get the complete picture of the Prairie States Forestry Project and its inner workings. The work is so varied from that on the National Forests that it is like coming into an entirely different organization, or learning the A B C's all over again.

Without fear of sounding trite and saying the thing I am supposed to say, the shelterbelt personnel is a fine group. In spite of the difficult conditions under which they have worked - of fluctuating finances and personnel - the men impressed me as doing their utmost to further the Project.

The Project itself - planting shelterbelts - is interesting. The most interesting phase, however, is not the planting itself. To me, the negotiators and their work sound the keynote of the whole Project. I have had very little opportunity to see the actual negotiation in progress, yet my talks with the men in the field and in the Wichita Falls office have stirred in me a keen interest and appreciation of their work.

I realize that the success or failure of the negotiators may mean the success or failure of the Project, although it was not so much this that impressed me as the equipment these men had to work with. Even with four years of planted belts behind them with a fair modicum of success, here was a group of young men out to sell a gift of trees to individuals who insisted on looking a gift horse in the mouth. Instead of owners of the small tracts common farther north to contact, the negotiators here have to contact owners of a half-section or several sections of land where, in at least an equal number of cases, the land is cropped by a tenant who as a rule cares little about the benefits to be derived from a shelterbelt. After all, they reason, a year or two may find them somewhere else, so why cultivate and protect a patch of trees from which someone else may benefit.

The youth of the shelterbelts, even with their rapid growth, is very much against using them as a strong argument for selling prospective co-operators. I understand the northern States have a great advantage. Over the past 40 years in the North, windbreaks of one type or another have been planted and have proved their worth. The question of multiple use and protection from wind and snow are also big items which the southern negotiator

cannot use. In the southern States the negotiators have had to buck almost an antagonism with a young and hard-earned sales psychology to sell miles of shelterbelts. Their problems of restricted planting on private land would feaze many an experienced Forest Service employee working on the National Forests. Such other problems as root-rot areas, large pasture lands, and only experimental planting on the South Plains are also severe handicaps to a concentrated program.

Naturally, there are other phases of the Project which are of interest, although it is surprising how little is known of the objectives and operation of the Project in the National Forests. Possibly the biggest drawback with the shelterbelt is the lack of sufficient advertising and the funds to get the equipment to carry on the advertising. Even the field men are seriously handicapped by the lack of attractive and adequate media to hold their meetings. My first reaction to the problem of the negotiators was the necessity of a showboat with motion pictures, lantern slides, mounted pictures, tree specimens, and small exhibits showing the benefits to be derived from the shelterbelts. I wonder greatly at the success of 1936, 1937, and 1938, with this lack of equipment. The past record of plantings in shelterbelts has much to say for the men who saw the Project through its formative years.

- H. M. Goldberg, Tex.

THIS IS WHAT COUNTS

Junior Forester Karl F. Ziegler of the Hutchinson District recently submitted a newspaper clipping reporting the annual election of officers of the Reno County Farm Bureau. The names of 13 incoming and outgoing officers and delegates to the State Board of Agriculture and the State Farm Bureau meetings were mentioned. Ziegler reports that of the officers and leaders mentioned in the clipping, five now have shelterbelts and four will have belts planted on their farms next spring.

Only two persons mentioned are not connected with our program. Of these two, Ziegler makes the following comment:

"In regard to Mr. _____, we have not as yet opened his township, and in regard to Mr. _____, we do not know where he lives yet. I believe it is a safe bet to venture these latter two will set out shelterbelts in the near future after they have been contacted."

Not only in Reno County, but also in other counties in which we operate, we have received very good support and cooperation from members and officers of the Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations. Resolutions endorsing the work of the Prairie States Forestry Project and favoring its continuance on a permanent basis have been adopted by State and county Farm Bureaus, Farmers' Unions, Associated Garden Clubs, State Board of Agriculture, and State Horticultural Society.

Support and cooperation from such farm organizations is particularly gratifying in that their membership is usually composed of the most progressive and successful agriculturists in the State. Without their support, it would be practically impossible to carry on the work of the Project on its present scale, and the Kansas Unit feels that it is particularly fortunate in having the friendly interest of such organizations.

- Harold E. Swim, Kans.

COOPERATION THAT IS COOPERATION

It is felt by the author that seldom, if ever, in the State of Kansas, has any community or group of communities exhibited the interest in and the hearty cooperation with the Forest Service in its shelterbelt program that Meade County has shown. The towns of Fowler and Meade, with their newspapers, Chambers of Commerce, and luncheon clubs, have literally outdone one another in their efforts to arouse interest in the work of the Forest Service in the rural areas surrounding each town.

The newspapers have given us much front page space, and the Chambers of Commerce have gone so far as to donate the time of several members for land negotiations. The president of the Fowler Chamber of Commerce has accompanied me several times on negotiation trips through the Artesian Valley adjacent to Fowler, and one of the rural mail carriers has delivered shelterbelt application forms at each farm along his route. At Meade, the county seat, the town's leading lumber dealer (who is also its leading Democrat), the town banker (who is its leading Republican), and the town's leading automobile dealer have at various times accompanied me in my negotiation trips around Meade. Needless to say, the presence of men of such caliber has done much to facilitate negotiation work here, and to arouse the interest of the farmers of the county in the Forest Service farm forestry program. During a single day last month, this cooperation made possible the signing up of more than five miles of shelterbelts.

Because of the rather thorough coverage of the shelterbelt subject by the newspapers and the cooperation of the County Agent here at Meade, along with the help of a few illustrated shelterbelt slide lectures given by Ralph Johnston, Kinsley District Officer, it has seldom been necessary actively to solicit planting sites from the farmers, most of them of their own volition applying for plantings. This is indeed a refreshingly different picture from the attitude of dull, passive apathy exhibited toward the work of the Forest Service in some areas where the writer has worked, and it is probably unusual even when compared with areas where interest in the shelterbelt program has been very pronounced.

- Victor O. Goodwin, Kans.

NEW DEVICE FOR CLEANING HACKBERRY SEED

Hackberry seed presents a cleaning problem. This year we had a large amount of it to clean and no machine available. Mr. Engstrom made a suggestion and we went to work.

We made two drums, one about six inches larger in diameter than the other, and placed one inside the other on a common axle. Each drum had galvanized iron sides in which nail holes were punched so that the rough sides of the drum walls faced each other. The central drum was fastened to the axle, while the other was free running. We made a door in one end of the larger drum for loading and emptying the machine. A $1\frac{1}{2}$ -horse motor was belted to the axle to rotate the central drum. The outside drum is free to move until the machine gets up momentum, and then is slowly braked to a standstill. The machine is simple and was made in our own shop from materials on hand except for the galvanized iron sides, which cost about \$2.00.

The results are good if the seed is either well dried or frozen very hard. This machine, if operated long enough, could be made to scarify as well as clean the seed. Fifteen minutes is sufficient to clean a batch of about a bushel. After cleaning, the seed is washed in lye water to remove the sticky pulp adhering to it. It is then rinsed well, dried and bagged, pending stratification. The stratification period is 90-120 days at 41 degrees F. Seed was cleaned at \$.094 per pound, including time spent on experimentation.

Mr. Ferber of the Soil Conservation Service says that he has cleaned hackberry quite successfully with a hammer mill. Has anyone in our organization tried this method?

- O. M. Patten, N.Dak.

HAROLD HAECKER HEARD FROM

Harold Haecker, formerly biological aide with the PSFP, who is now strutting his stuff in California, has been heard from. He is rather enthusiastic over his new location and has made many new friends -- he would! Also, he declares that even children seem to sprout more rapidly in the Native Sun State, but perhaps Harold has become confused with the matter of growing seasons for trees and ascribes to children the same technique by which saplings spring skyward.

But Harold gets lonesome for his old gang up here, and is able to tell where and when he has encountered each Shelterbelter or ex-Shelterbelter who has migrated westward either permanently or on temporary transfer. Not long ago he encountered Fred Stell, formerly of the North Dakota office, and Jack Nelson, now Oklahoma State Director, at Redding, California. Later, at San Francisco, he ran into Ray Ward and Kay Wolf. Ray is now fiscal agent for Region 10 at Juneau, Alaska. Last spring Maurine and Lawrence Staab, formerly of the Lincoln Office, and during the summer, Mary Mullen of the Kansas Office, visited the Haeckers at their Sacramento home.

Living costs in California, he reports, are about the same as at Lincoln, higher prices for some necessities being offset by lower costs for others. And then the sightseeing opportunities impress Harold, so that the jallopys seldom has an idle moment.

Harold closes by wishing his best to the personnel of the Project, and is joined in those wishes by Mrs. Haecker and the youngsters.

PSFP MAKES COMMERCIAL SCREEN

Through Pathe News, the Prairie States Forestry Project has made the commercial screen, according to word from the South Dakota State office. Field Officers of the South Dakota unit made the necessary arrangements for the filming of a rabbit hunt January 26. Seventy feet of the film taken by Mr. Waggner, Pathe photographer, were accepted for the news reel for the week of February 6. In addition, a longer film is being released as a Sports Reel. Mr. Waggner got some excellent shots of shelterbelts and of rabbit damage in perfecting the continuity. The South Dakotans furnished shelterbelt data in writing so that the news and sports commentators would be correctly informed.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

RABBIT AND COYOTE DRIVES IN THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

On Monday, January 2, the local American Legion sponsored a rabbit and coyote drive which covered an entire township just east of Norfolk. The weather was ideal, although there was no snow, and the turn-out of hunters and spectators was exceptional. A thousand automobiles lined the roads as near to the locale of the hunt as their owners were allowed to drive. A thousand or more hunters took part and it was estimated that about that number of rabbits were killed. Three airplanes droned overhead, observers in the planes noting spots where the lines of hunters were too weak or too heavy, and broadcasting, via shortwave, instructions for equalizing the lines to the local radio station in Norfolk which re-broadcast to the captains and lieutenants who had automobile radios. When all was in readiness, a signal from the planes started the hunters. As the lines of hunters finally began to converge, the din was terrific and might aptly remind one of a highspot on the well-known "Gangbusters" program. At the end of the hunt the rabbits were auctioned off and sold to a local hide and fur dealer, the money being turned over to the American Legion.

The idea of a large-scale rabbit and coyote drive "clicked" at once and immediately another was planned for a couple weeks later. January 22 the local boys again limbered up their shootin' irons. The area covered in the second drive was Kingsburg Precinct, about 15 miles southwest of Norfolk. Old Man Winter had just the night before blanketed the ground with snow which, although it made our grey-furred foe easier to see, kept a good many spectators and a few hunters from the drive. Nevertheless, about 400 cars were on hand and around 800 hunters took part. The hunt was conducted in a similar manner to the one held on January 2, except that only two airplanes were employed and, lacking broadcasting facilities, a set of signals was worked out to enable the lieutenants and captains to equalize the lines of hunters. When the smoke cleared away there were around a thousand rabbits that would never again make a meal off our good Chinese elm trees. Four coyotes were also bagged, so the local sharpshooters went home feeling that a good afternoon's work had been accomplished.

Much of the success of the two hunts described above can be attributed to the efforts of the County Agent of the county in which the hunts were held. On both occasions descriptive bulletins, showing location of the area where the drive was to take place, directions to hunters, etc., were issued and made available to every farmer in the county as well as to many outsiders.

Now you may have been wondering just where the PSFP came in on these drives, besides, of course, our natural interest in such activities as a means of effective rodent control. Naturally when such a large-scale hunt is held, farmers and townspeople in the surrounding area, who are interested, are all rarin' to go. We had previously made public our offer to furnish transportation for hunters on occasions of these drives. The offer was accepted by many who had no way of transportation to the hunt. We feel that the small cost to us of furnishing this transportation is much more than offset by the good will created in our behalf. It's good publicity for us, too.

And speaking of publicity, we were somewhat surprised the other morning when the office door opened and a uniformed policeman walked in. We

couldn't for the life of us think of anything we'd done to merit a visit from the local P.D., so, with a clear conscience we looked this arm of the law squarely in the eye and politely inquired as to what we could do for him. "Well," quoth the copper, "I am the Chief of Police here in Norfolk, and I would like to get some information on organizing a rabbit and coyote drive up northwest of town." We explained that if some person or organization would undertake to sponsor such a hunt, we would be glad to furnish as much transportation as we had available, just as we had on the previous two hunts. After a short discussion about rabbit hunts in general, he expressed his thanks and left, determined to get a drive organized up northwest of town even if the Police Department had to sponsor it.

- Howard W. Lawton, Nebr.

AN OLD SAW WITH NEW TEETH

There is an old axiom: "Spare the rod; spoil the child." Earle Thomas of the Valley City District in North Dakota apparently has reconstructed this to read: "Spare the child and spoil the concentration area."

A review of his recent accomplishments in Information and Education reveals that within a week he has talked to the pupils of 18 rural schools in Barnes County. His aggregate audience consisted of 385 pupils.

Thomas consulted the Superintendent of Schools with regard to the possibility of giving shelterbelt lectures and found that gentleman very much interested. Thomas says that the County Superintendent told the teachers that they were to be addressed by a member of the Forest Service and that they should ask questions. They far exceeded the wildest imaginings, for not only the teachers but also the students were loaded for Thomas on his arrival. Thomas is of the opinion that a doctorate from Yale or Harvard might have been of material aid in answering some of the questions directed at him.

I believe Thomas is on the right track, as the boys and girls that are attending our rural schools today are the farmers of tomorrow. It is they who are to reap the greatest benefits from the shelterbelts now being planted, and a successful educational campaign carried on with these children now will insure our reaching the ultimate goal of complete farm protection in the generations to come.

- K. W. Taylor, N.Dak.

PSFP PROGRAM CARRIES GIRLS TO PRIZE

The Prairie States Forestry Project's program was the steed upon which the Camp Fire Girls of Wichita Falls, Texas, rode to national honors, according to State Director W. E. Webb. Webb, he informed the R.O., was called upon last summer to talk about the PSFP to the Camp Fire Girls who had just received word of a "Far Horizons Plans" contest sponsored by the SCS, and were wondering in what manner they could participate. Prizes were offered for the best outline on any of a rather large number of conservation projects and Webb suggested forestry as a subject. In mid-December, Webb was called upon to address the girls once more, this time to present the awards to the individuals and to the Wichita Falls Council which had won the national service honors. Besides the contest awards, each girl was presented with a copy of "Famous Trees" sent to them by F. A. Silcox, Chief of the Forest Service.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

On February 8 the historical event which had been looked forward to for the past four years occurred in the Elk City District, for it was on that day that Max Pfaender from the Oklahoma State Office, accompanied by Thomas C. Hutchinson, on detail to Oklahoma from North Dakota, cut a goodly supply of useful wood products from a shelterbelt planted in 1935.

The shelterbelt, which is located on the Dr. A. H. Bungardt farm $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Cordell, Oklahoma, is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length, and according to the owner is already giving splendid protection to his cultivated fields. He reports the best crop obtained in years from this farm in 1938.

Five of the ordinary average trees of the belt were cut down by Pfaender and Hutchinson. Each of the five species - cottonwood, Chinese elm, catalpa, black locust and mulberry - produced fence posts of sufficient size to put the average Oklahoma fence post to shame.

The Chinese elm measured 24 inches in circumference at the base, the cottonwood 23 inches, the catalpa and black locust each 19 inches, while the mulberry, which was one of five shoots coming from the same root, measured 10 inches.

The cottonwood tree was 33 ft., 7 inches high; the Chinese elm, 27 ft. 7 inches; the catalpa, 20 ft., and the mulberry, 17 ft., 2 inches.

A true forest condition exists beneath the trees and no weeds or vegetation was found. Scores of bird nests were seen in the upper branches of the trees, and no sand was lodged beneath the trees or deposited there by the winds.

Another year's growth and this particular belt will demand rethinning operations that will no doubt yield enough fence posts to fence many acres of farm land besides an abundant supply of fuel.

Cross sections of the logs cut are being cut and polished for display purposes.

- Thomas C. Hutchinson, N.Dak.

SOUTH DAKOTA GETS IMPROVED CLIPPING SERVICE

Al Ford of South Dakota has a suggestion regarding the clipping of news stories to pass along to the other States. In South Dakota, the Extension Editor has student help to maintain a clipping service, and at Al's request was glad to clip also shelterbelt stories which carry a Brookings date line. The Extension Editor gets nearly all of the newspapers in the State. Al explained that the only reimbursement he could offer was his thanks and the continued cooperation of the project, which apparently was satisfactory.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

WIDE AWAKE, THIS OFFICER'S MOTTO

Inspection Officer: And do you keep your activities planned well ahead and in detail?

Field Officer: Oh, sure, I always keep my diary written up at least a week in advance.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

STEPS IN CONDUCTING TOWNSHIP MEETING

The township tree committee as a possible important part in a land negotiation program has been discussed in the columns of PLAINS FORESTER from time to time. We believe it is proving a real aid to the Project in this State.

The following steps were recently conducted by Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Stebbins in handling a township in Rice county.

1. Township mapped.
2. Township Tree Committee selected.
3. Township Tree Committee met, map revised, township meeting date set.
4. Notices of township meeting published in two county newspapers.
5. Meeting advertised on screen of local theater.
6. Forest Officer contacted Chamber of Commerce secretary and asked his cooperation. Forest Officer contacted Rotary Club and asked their cooperation.
7. Committee, County Agent and Forest Officer contacted 30 land-owners and farmers in township and urged them to attend meeting.
8. Meeting held by committee. District officer explained the tree planting program from A to Z. Sub-district officer correlated it with this particular township, County ACP Committeeman gave rousing 10-minute talk, County Agent explained relation of tree planting and agriculture. One unknown man in crowd arose and said, "A country is no better than its trees."
9. Meeting adjourned.
10. Forty-five present - 10 applications for shelterbelt received.

In addition to bringing about desirable community thought on shelterbelt planting, the tree committees constitute a proper group to assist with all other tree planting within the township. In the new national movement in coordination of activities of the Department and the emphasis now being placed on land-use planning, we see a further advantage in having our township tree committees. Efforts are now being made to set up the county land-use planning committees. One member of our township tree committee from each township will be on the county planning committee. This tie will be made in practically all townships. It is desirable from the viewpoint of this Project. The Director of Extension considers it a desirable relationship and lends us his support in the tree committee movement.

On December 31, 141 townships have been organized and 461 leaders were serving on these Township Tree Committees.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN A DANDY

One of the most comprehensive and readable of all bulletins dealing with tree planting on the Plains is the one recently prepared by Glen R. Durrell, Oklahoma State Forester, for general distribution among those seeking information on this subject. His instructions are lucid. Perhaps our own ego is inflated a bit, because Glen follows the PSFP technique closely and gives full credit.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

THE LADIES DO THEIR PART

Much has been said of the progress of the shelterbelt, but little has been said of the women of the Project.

We have, of course, recognized the valuable assistance rendered by the office girls. There are, however, many other occasions when these ladies and the wives of the personnel and cooperators lend a hand.

When a moving picture man stopped in last fall and asked for a real picnic scene in order to work in the human interest angle, and this required the preparation of several baskets of food, the services of the ladies were accepted when they were so graciously offered. When a photographer wishes to show a picnic scene in the shade of shelterbelt trees, the ladies help furnish the foreground.

When Mr. Pfaender organized a training school for the Oklahoma personnel at the Mangum Nursery on November 25, the sandwiches, rolls, hot chocolate, and coffee were prepared and served by the comely ladies of the Mangum office. Even the sandwich which was filled with newspaper (properly spread with salad dressing), for a fake, was sworn by its recipient to be good.

The cooperators in the Mangum District have organized Farm Forestry Associations. The local and county organizations have appointed committees to promote the shelterbelt work. These committees meet in the evenings and the ladies always help make it a pleasant social event by preparing refreshments.

We have dwelt upon the local situation because we are familiar with the details here. We are sure that conditions are the same in the entire Region, and that women play an important part in the progress of our work.

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.

WE HOPE THIS IS A PROMISE

Don't lose heart, folks, just because we have been compelled to combine the January and February issues of PLAINS FORESTER. We honestly trust that it will not again be necessary to skip a month. This time, however, ye editor was verily sunk beneath the downy deposits of a blizzard -- not of snow, but of work -- which included the accumulations of office routine, the details of a lengthy field trip, and a spell of sickness. However, with Hal Swan back from Region One, we are at full strength again and will try to push our noses high enough to be a little above the drifts.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

"TREASURE TRUNK" PICTURES TAKEN

William R. McCarthy, cinematographer of the Bureau of Motion Pictures of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, spent from January 26 to February 3 in Nebraska taking pictures depicting the value of shelterbelt protection to homes, feedlots, and crop lands. The scenes will be used in completing the shelterbelt picture "Treasure Trunks" started last summer by Cinematographer Luey.

- E. Garth Champagne, Nebr.

IN THIS CORNER - WE HAVE THE SURVIVAL COUNT

That was not a distant cyclone you've been hearing the past month. It was the sound that went up progressively as the S.B.A.'s looked over their survival count selection of sample belts. However, a survival counter gets pretty calloused after a month and a half and develops a heart of flint (the S.B.A.'s add - also a head of bone). The chief kicks follow:

1. Samples hit too often on the fringe of the area
2. Samples not representative
3. Samples too few to be representative

From what I saw during the survival count it seemed to me that the boys might be right in some of this. At least it merits some consideration, if the weight of consolidated opinion means anything. In many cases, and particularly in the Alliance district, it seemed that an undue balance of belts did fall on the fringe of the districts. In most cases it followed that the worst survival, due mainly to grasshoppers, occurred on the fringe. Why the selection should fall thus, I don't know; the method of selection was the same in all districts. On the other hand, however, some of the worst belts impolitely cropped up in the middle of the district. In some cases a concentration of belts occurred in sandhill districts or bad grasshopper areas; while the major part of the district occurred on better land. This was likewise balanced by concentrations which fell happily in better areas on other districts. It was argued by some that the selections fell in groups rather than occurring generally, thereby giving greater weight to the particular neighborhood they happened in, and in the case of the grasshopper area or sandhill area they did not give a true picture. That seemed to me a worthy argument, but I think that sandhill and grasshopper areas occur more frequently than the district officer realizes in many districts. Scarcity of samples, while not brought up by many, seemed to me a point worthy of more consideration. While I realize that cost is a big item in figuring survival counts, I believe that a heavier concentration of samples would give more satisfaction for the money spent.

As the count is made now, mile-long belts are averaged in with half and quarter-mile belts as they occur in the selection. In a lot of cases the longer belts have a greater mortality than the shorter belts. Would it not be a better average, then, to select only a definite limited piece of each belt, say a quarter of a mile, and increase the number of samples to make a ten percent count instead of the five percent as now taken? It would increase the travel somewhat, but the survival counter covers the whole district anyhow. In this case he'd make more stops while covering the same ground.

Inspection of belts in Nebraska and Kansas disclosed a lower survival than last year. Insect damage played the biggest part in tree mortality. While I did not total the mortality by various agencies, it seemed to me that rabbit damage and small size of stock figured about equally destructive, followed by poor care and the elements: erosion, hail, and drouth. In most cases insect damage and poor care went hand in hand - insect damage varying inversely as the care. Also, from all observation I concur with Dortignac in saying that more attention should be given to selection of sites and adapting the species to the site.

- Brennan Davis, Nebr.

SHELTERBELTERS ARE GOOD TALKERS

During 1938 ninety-two members of the PSFP unburdened themselves of oratory to the tune of 602 addresses and 23 radio broadcasts. 41,986 people heard them, the audiences ranging in character from little groups of farmers in kerosene-lighted rural schoolhouses to swanky city clubs. The average size of audience - 70 souls - bears witness to a lot of talking at rural community gatherings.

Nineteen of our brave lads injected their message into the living rooms of the region via the radio waves, and some of them are beginning to like it. At Elk City, Oklahoma, the boys are putting on a weekly 30-minute program, including the necessary (sic) music, and the citizens of those parts are said to keep their radios tuned to that station all day for fear of missing it.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

JAMES WATTS' INVENTION PROVIDED FOR OTHER THINGS

The article by Olson reminds me of an incident when I was a boy.

I was in my best Sunday suit (I had only one) and Pa took me to the city, which was a great event in my life. While there I saw my first locomotive. He led me past the engine. Just as I was going by, I was engulfed in a hideous cloud of escaping steam. My first reaction was fright, which later became one of deep chagrin as I gazed with consternation at my new suit which was badly oil spattered (locomotives being dirt spouters in those days).

As I grew older, I learned that I had been hit by a burst of steam from the "pop-off" valve with which James Watts had provided his steam engine. I later learned that this phenomena only occurred when a full head of steam was present and while the engine was stopped or just getting ready to take off.

Well, Dave, I'm quite sure that the "fence" discussion in North Dakota was the same thing. I believe every field man in North Dakota "popped off" the same way, yet, when you pulled the throttle the boys here all put the steam in the cylinder. All of them have sold the Doubting Thomases on the need for fence and are getting "brand new" ones most of the time. Pears sold one farmer so well that he bought fence for his neighbor, and Arthurs has secured a concentration of more than 40 miles in one township (all 1939) where fence was the big objection.

At the same time I'd bet nearly every man-jack clipped your article to put in his "war bag" for speechifying.

There will be steam in plenty any time you pull the throttle, Dave, but I suspect the "pop-off" valve will still operate in idle moments.

- L. A. Williams, N.Dak.

EX-SHELTERBELTER GETS PROMOTION

Donald W. Nelson, one of the earlier members of the PSFP, who has been a Ranger on the Lolo National Forest Staff in Region One, has been promoted and is now assigned to the Sandpoint (Idaho) Ranger District of the Kaniksu National Forest. Good work, Don.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

SOME TRAINING FACTS AND FUNDAMENTALS

Training is not a new activity in the Forest Service nor on this Project. Its importance here has been recognized since the inception of the Project chiefly, I presume, because of the pioneering aspects of our work and the fact that more than 80 percent of our supervisory, and all of our sub-supervisory, personnel possessed no previous Service training or experience. In the spring of 1936 a fairly comprehensive training program was carried out with the assistance of Ray Lindberg, training supervisor on detail from Region 6. Only a comparatively few employees who received formal training instruction at that time remain on the Project today. Because of the almost complete dissolution of the organization in July 1936, the subsequent uncertainties surrounding the future of our program and the ever-changing status of our financial and personnel organization, formal training efforts have not been given the attention or impetus they rightly deserve. This matter was discussed at the State Directors' conference in Lincoln in July 1938. It was agreed that this subject would be given impetus during the coming season. I am glad to note, therefore, that all States are now accomplishing some excellent training through meetings, and that most of them propose additional group meetings before the beginning of major activity seasons.

The judgment and competence of the Forest Service is largely measured by the judgment and competence the field officer puts into his work. In a very real sense the field office is the Forest Service and the public respect accorded our work rises or falls according to the intelligence, techniques and fortitude the field man employs. The nature of the response a field officer makes to the occurrence of problems and to the prosecution of his job in a technically sound, economical manner depends in very large part on the quality of training he has been given; so, well-conceived pre-training ranks high in the field of preparatory measures in our organization.

Our personnel must receive its training through a combination of instruction, study, observation and experience. No single factor in itself will develop a thoroughly trained Forest Officer.

In considering the broad field of training, recognition must be given to two rather distinct types of training: (1) Training by Absorption, and (2) Training by Intention.

1. Training by Absorption

This type of training is called training by absorption because the individual absorbs or picks up knowledge and ability without the help of an instructor and without any plan for his training. In training by absorption there is no formal recognition of the trainee-instructor relationship.

There are two kinds of training by absorption:

a. Through association, without the help of an instructor. An illustration in point might be where a Subdistrict Officer is stationed at a District Officer's headquarters. Unconsciously, perhaps, he acquires some knowledge of the District Officer's job through hearing discussions of the latter's responsibilities and problems. This kind of training has a distinct value to the individual since he

acquires knowledge which may widen his usefulness beyond the ordinary limits of his job and in addition helps to prepare him for other and usually more responsible jobs.

b. Through acquiring knowledge and ability needed for his job as a result of contact with his work, without the help of anyone. Ordinarily this kind of training is slow, costly, and ineffective although upon occasion it must be relied upon to assist in the development of the man. Too great dependence upon this type of development invites disaster; the supervisory officer must know in advance the extent to which the knowledge and ability of the field officer can be depended upon. The necessity of this advance assurance, therefore, justifies and requires training by intention.

2. Training by Intention

The chief difference between training by absorption and training by intention is that in the latter there is a clearly recognized plan of training. In a plan for training, certain Forest Officers are made responsible for organizing and carrying out the training program or school. In other words, some men have the definite job of training or instruction; others have the equally definite, though sometimes rather painful, job of learning. The trainee-instructor relation is recognized by both the trainee and the instructors.

There are a number of methods recognized in training the Field Officer, chiefly: (a) Individual Training, and (b) Group Training.

a. Individual Training

This type is the simpler form and may be accomplished in a number of well-recognized ways. A number of the more important of these are discussed below:

(1) Training in Place

This is where the trainee is on the job and, through demonstration (preferably following the 4-step method of training), the instructor transmits his knowledge of the mechanics of performing the job to the trainee. This is a most effective means of development, but the element of time limits its application.

(2) Training in Conjunction with Inspection

"Inspection" and "training" should, for all practical purposes, be considered synonymous. Actually, if inspection performs a useful service and is at all worth the effort and the Government's time and money, it will accomplish training in a very material way. I might say here that the inspector should not be immune to the valuable training he can acquire through the performance of good inspection work. It is important that the inspectee be made to understand that the inspector is there

largely for the assistance, advice and instruction (training) he can impart to the man on the ground. The value of training through inspection will be decreased unless the inspector plans in advance what he is to accomplish on the trip.

(3) Correspondence and Correspondence Courses

These differ in that the former implies circular or individual letters, whereas a correspondence course consists of a series of written lessons progressing from the known to the unknown, from the concrete to the abstract. We are all familiar with the former, but to date little has been done regarding correspondence courses for our personnel. We are studying this matter now and hope by next fall or winter to be in a position to either render effective assistance to the States on a correspondence course project or develop a plan, for Project-wide use and application, in the Regional Office. We need the considered opinions and expressions of all field officers on this subject.

(4) Self-Application

This means of individual training refers to all learning activities engaged in by an individual upon his own initiative and without any appreciable assistance. It is important that the trainee be guided, however, in his reading and study to see that he is occupying his time to the best advantage. On this Project, considering the large number of new appointees in particular, outside study of elementary agronomy, plant physiology, rural economics, sociology; the new Planting Manual (to be issued shortly), the Forest Service Manual (notably Volumes I and II), are but a few suggestions for outside study. I should be very much disappointed if our personnel (and I do not confine this reference to new appointees) fails to take full advantage of the opportunity for obtaining training values in this way.

(5) Training through Assignment

This means of training, which we call a "detail" from one job or State to another, is primarily for the purpose of broadening the individual's stock of experiences as well as to assist in the prosecution of jobs elsewhere. Experiences gained through active participation, under capable leadership provide an excellent form of training. Upon occasion, these details may cause some personal sacrifices, but viewed in the light of further education, these sacrifices become less painful, and in most cases disappear entirely. I hope our personnel will always view details in the light of training opportunities.

- Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, R.O.

REMEMBER THIS WHEN YOU BUILD YOUR GARAGE

A motor car is over an eighth of an inch longer on a summer day than on a cold, winter day.

- Clipped.

FIELD MEN NOT ONLY ONES TO HAVE IDEAS

Practically every issue of PLAINS FORESTER contains from one to half a dozen stories dealing with the development of new equipment, improvements in existing equipment, improved techniques in the cleaning and handling of seed, new approaches to the negotiation problem, etc. PLAINS FORESTER has become something of an open forum for the discussion of various field problems, but, if my memory serves me right, the first article dealing with clerical and fiscal problems has yet to appear--and through no fault of the editor, either.

Maybe we "Fiscal Hounds" (as some of the boys here in Kansas so lovingly call us) don't have any problems. Maybe our office practices and procedures are now developed to the highest point possible. Or maybe we're just too absorbed with our problems to take the time to pass along an occasional good idea. I'd bet my bottom dollar (and you wouldn't have to go very deep to find it), that everyone of us has developed some ideas and practices which would be of benefit to the rest of us if we only knew about them. I think we are overlooking a good bet through our failure to use PLAINS FORESTER as a medium for airing some of our pet problems and the solutions we have found for them.

Loosen up, you fellows. I, for one, could use a couple of ideas!

- Harold E. Swim, Kans.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Many of us have probably thought of a Forest Service standard shelterbelt sign as a sort of "X marks the spot" affair. Aside from being a neat and clever sign to show where we have planted, it is doing a splendid job of advertising for the Forest Service.

Proof of this advertising came the other day in the Larimore area. Neighbors in the vicinity of the Mike Pizdaric farm were signing for 1939 plantings, so a call to the Pizdaric farm was made. When the word "shelterbelt" was mentioned, he began to nod his head in affirmation. He proceeded to tell of a trip into Bismarck last summer, when he saw several of these shelterbelt signs on our plantings. Not only did these signs attract his eye, but aroused his curiosity as well. He informed me he stopped at two plantings and determined the spacing, species of trees, and noted that the belts which were the most free of weeds were making the best growth. "They did a good job of planting, too," he remarked, as he began to show me the boundaries of his farm on a township map. After showing Mr. Pizdaric our plans for concentration of plantings, he signed "in the lower left-hand corner," which will make him a 1939 cooperator.

Just how much results will come from these signs in the line of advertising and public relations work will probably be impossible to measure. We do know they are working for us though, and whether expressed in man days, dollars and cents, mileage quotas, or flowing words, they are doing a splendid job.

- G. A. Freeman, N.Dak.

WE DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, EITHER

During the month of November it was rumored that Dave Olson's "ghost" was stalking the highways of our State. All a myth, though--it was only "yours truly" using that historic old Dodge Sedan that Dave drove so long.

- G. A. Freeman, N.Dak.

CHARLES RUCKMAN VISITS OLD STAMPING GROUNDS

The Oklahoma State Office enjoyed the visit of Charles Ruckman, formerly in charge of engineering on this Unit, who is now working for the Indian Service in Oregon. Charlie visited with his relatives in Oklahoma.

He enjoys his work with the Indian Service, but says it is a lot tougher surveying roads on land that stands on end than it was to survey for shelterbelts in a level, plains country. He is situated about 72 miles northwest of Bend, Oregon, in the vicinity of Mt. Hood, one of the loftiest of the Rockies.

- A. N. Butler, Okla.

BARTOS GOES TO NEW JOB

Otto K. Bartos left the Nebraska State Office for the PWA Regional Office at Omaha, where he takes the job as Assistant Auditor. We can't blame Otto for leaving, as Omaha is "home" to both him and Caroline. Besides this, his new job carries a very substantial salary increase. Good luck to you, Otto and Caroline--you deserve all the good things that come your way.

NEW SENIOR CLERK FOR NEBRASKA

W. R. Burke, new Senior Clerk, reported at Grand Island January 9. Mr. Burke's home was in Lincoln, and his wife and children will remain there for the winter so the children may remain in school.

- R. W. Smith, Nebr.

TEXAS NOTES

Ed Kemp, of the Childress District, reports that one of his assigned WPA workers did not report for duty.

Reason: In the penitentiary!

Question: Shall the position be held for his return to civil life?

Ranger Eric H. Gordon of the Mt. Hood N. F., Oregon, was a visitor in Wichita Falls, Texas, the latter part of January. Gordon was dining at the Kemp Hotel when he noted the uniforms worn by Walt Webb and Sid Burton, who were sitting nearby with Lou Wirth and me. After introductions were made, Gordon told us of the beautiful trip he had taken through the eastern part of the country. He was on his way back to Oregon at the time of his visit to Texas.

The new shelterbelt bookmarks have been received with considerable interest by the women in Texas. Enthusiastic letters are coming into the State Office with every mail.

Junior Biologist Herb and Jo Wells, at Wichita Falls, are being congratulated on recovering from serious illnesses. Both have been out of the hospital for a couple of weeks, and Herb has been able to make his first trip to the field.

- H. M. Goldberg, Tex.

WHAT? NO BOYS?

Hank Lobenstein just won't let Eddie Cantor have anything on him. Another baby girl has been added to the Lobenstein family, Alice Louise, born January 23, making three girls in the household. Just why Hank received a bouquet of pansies is a mystery. Do pansies signify something?